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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/631,723	08/03/2000	Richard Louis Arndt	AUS9-2000-0316-US1	9219

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EXAMINER

LEE, CHRISTOPHER E

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2189

DATE MAILED: 11/04/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/631,723

Applicant(s)

ARNDT ET AL.

Examiner

Christopher E. Lee

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-21 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 13 November 2000 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____


RUPAL DHARMA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they include the following reference sign(s) not mentioned in the description:

In Fig. 1, the reference signs 116, 118, 119, 124, 133 and 192 are not mentioned in the description.

In Fig. 2, the reference sign 212 is not mentioned in the description.

In Fig. 3, the reference signs 314, 316, 318 and 320 are not mentioned in the description.

A proposed drawing correction, corrected drawings, or amendment to the specification to add the reference sign(s) in the description, are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

3. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:

On page 8, line 6, substitute --160-163-- for "160-164".

On page 8, line 23, substitute --P3-- for "P1".

On page 12, line 14, substitute --232-238-- for "232-248".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Objections

4. Claims 10 and 17 are objected to because of the following informalities:

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Regarding to claim 10, the claim cites the limitation "instructions comprising the computer program product" in lines 2-3. However, the Applicant does not clearly state which instructions are pointed out by said instructions, i.e., first instructions, second instructions or both of instructions. And, said instructions cannot comprise said computer program product recursively. Therefore, the Examiner considers the subject matter --instructions-- as "said first and second instructions" in the claim, and the subject matter "comprising the computer program product" is removed from the claim for the purpose of the examination.

Regarding to claim 17, the claim cites the limitation "means comprising the system" in lines 1-2. However, the Applicant does not clearly state which means are pointed out by said means, i.e., first means, second means or both of means. And, said means cannot comprise said system recursively. Therefore, the Examiner considers the subject matter --means-- as "said first and second means" in the claim, and the subject matter "comprising the system" is removed from the claim for the purpose of the examination.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

6. Claims 1, 8 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In those claims, they recite the limitation "the operating system" in line 7 of the claim 1, in line 11 of the claim 8 and in line 9 of the claim 15, respectively. There are insufficient antecedent bases for this limitation in those claims respectively. Therefore, the limitation "the operating system" could be considered as --an operating system-- since it is not clearly defined in the claims.

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Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahrens et al. [US 6,230,265 B1; hereinafter Ahrens'265] in view of Berglund et al. [US 6,044,411; hereinafter Berglund].

Referring to claims 8 and 15, Ahrens'265 discloses a computer program product (i.e., firmware in SPCN controller 36, SP memory 52 and system memory 34 in Fig. 1) in a computer readable media (SPCN controller 36, SP memory 52 and system memory 34 in Fig. 1) for use in a data processing system (data processing system 10 of Fig. 1) for managing (i.e., initializing and configuring) input/output drawers (See Fig. 2 and col. 3, line 39 through col. 5, line 60) within said data processing system, said computer program product comprising: first instructions for indicating how many input/output drawers are supplied power (i.e., power information; See col. 3, lines 50-52); and second instructions for storing said indication in memory (SP memory 52 of Fig. 1; See col. 3, lines 47-50).

Ahrens'265 does not disclose expressly said first and second instructions further comprising: said first instructions for assigning a unique location identifier to each of a plurality of input/output drawers; and said second instructions for storing said unique location identifier in memory.

Berglund discloses a method and apparatus for correlating computer system device physical location with logical address, wherein first means for assigning (i.e., defining) a unique location identifier (i.e., unique physical location address; See col. 7, lines 40-44 and 47) to each of a plurality of input/output drawers (i.e., backplane 113, 113A, 113B1 and 113B2 in Fig. 1A-C); and second means for storing (i.e., writing) said unique location identifier in memory (See col. 7, lines 44-48).

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Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included said first and second means, as disclosed by Berglund, in said computer program product, as disclosed by Ahrens'265, for the advantage of providing said unique location identifier (i.e., physical location information) is instantly available to an operating system when a logical addresses are assigned thereby (See col. 7, lines 58-61 of Berglund).

Ahrens'265, as modified by Berglund, teaches said computer program product, wherein said unique location identifier (i.e., unique physical location address; Berglund) is used by an operating system to identify said plurality of input/output drawers regardless of how said input/output drawers are interconnected by cables (See abstract of Berglund; i.e., wherein in fact that an operating system uses said stored physical location indication to correlate logical addresses to physical location implies said unique location identifier is used by an operating system to identify said plurality of input/output drawers (viz., to indicate location of said plurality of input/output drawers; Berglund) regardless of how said input/output drawers are interconnected by cables (viz., through said correlation between said input/output drawers and said logical addresses of them; See col. 14, lines 23-26 of Berglund).

Referring to claim 1, the method steps of claim 1 are inherently performed by the apparatus of claim 15, and therefore the rejection of claim 15 applies to claim 1.

Referring to claims 10 and 17, Ahrens'265 discloses said first and second instructions are executed in a service processor (microprocessor of SPCN controller 36 and SP 50 in Fig. 1 as combined). Refer to col. 3, lines 39-67.

Referring to claim 3, the method steps of claim 3 are inherently performed by the apparatus of claim 17, and therefore the rejection of claim 17 applies to claim 3.

9. Claims 2, 9 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahrens'265 [US 6,230,265 B1] in view of Berglund [US 6,044,411] as applied to claims 1, 3, 8, 10, 15 and 17 above, and further in view of Sidhu et al. [US 5,884,322; hereinafter Sidhu].

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Referring to claims 9 and 16, Ahrens'265, as modified by Berglund, discloses all the limitations of the claims 9 and 16 except that does not teach third instructions, responsive to a determination that a new input/output drawer has been added to said data processing system, for assigning a new unique location identifier to said new input/output drawer.

Sidhu discloses a method and apparatus for creating and assigning unique identifiers for network entities and data base items in a networked computer system, wherein third instructions, responsive to a determination (See block 100 in Fig. 4) that a new input/output drawer (i.e., new server entity) has been added (i.e., installed) to said data processing system (i.e., networked computer system 10 of Fig. 1; See col. 10, lines 23-25), for assigning (See block 104 in Fig. 4) a new unique location identifier (i.e., unique server identification) to said new input/output drawer (i.e., new server entity; See col. 10, lines 30-31), wherein said new unique location identifier is different from any of said unique location identifiers previously assigned (See col. 10, lines 32-35 and col. 11, lines 37-40), such that each of said plurality of input/output drawers (i.e., server entities) maintains the same unique location identifier (See col. 10, lines 58-61; i.e., wherein in fact that a server entity (i.e., input/output drawer) assigns a unique identification (i.e., unique location identification) from its set of available server identifications and removes the assigned identification from the set implies each of said plurality of input/output drawers (i.e., server entities) maintains the same unique location identifier (i.e., the same unique identification)).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included said third instructions, as disclosed by Sidhu, in said computer program product, as disclosed by Ahrens'265, as modified by Berglund, for the advantage of providing a means for appropriating identifications in a manner which is consistent with input/output drawer use (i.e., network use), thereby reducing the number of unique location identifications (i.e., the number of identifications) that remain dormant because of inactivity on said input/output drawer (i.e., the server) which owns those identifications (See col. 4, lines 17-21 of Sidhu).

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Referring to claim 2, the method steps of claim 2 are inherently performed by the apparatus of claim 16, and therefore the rejection of claim 16 applies to claim 2.

10. Claims 4, 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 18, 20 and 21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahrens'265 [US 6,230,265 B1] in view of Berglund [US 6,044,411] and Sidhu [US 5,884,322] as applied to claims 2, 9 and 16 above, and further in view of Lortz et al. [US 6,041,364; hereinafter Lortz].

Referring to claims 11 and 18, Ahrens'265, as modified by Berglund and Sidhu, discloses all the limitations of the claims 11 and 18 except that does not teach said unique location identifier and said new unique location identifier are stored in a device tree.

Lortz teaches a system for adding a device entry to a device tree upon detecting the connection of a device, wherein said device tree (Fig. 2C) stores unique location identifier (address, name and location on Device #1 272 of Fig. 2C) and an added new unique location identifier (See col. 6, lines 41-44).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included said device tree, as disclosed by Lortz, in said data processing system, as disclosed by Ahrens'265, as modified by Berglund and Sidhu, for the advantage of providing a way for associating an input/output drawer (i.e., smart device; Lortz) with particular device driver for said input/output drawer (i.e., software components, device functions, or software categories; Lortz). Refer to col. 2, line 55 through col. 3, line 3 of Lortz.

Referring to claim 4, the method steps of claim 4 are inherently performed by the apparatus of claim 18, and therefore the rejection of claim 18 applies to claim 4.

Referring to claims 13 and 20, Lortz discloses said device tree is stored in a system memory (computer readable medium 240 of Fig. 2A).

Referring to claim 6, the method steps of claim 6 are inherently performed by the apparatus of claim 20, and therefore the rejection of claim 20 applies to claim 6.

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Referring to claims 14 and 21, Ahrens'265, as modified by Berglund and Sidhu, discloses all the limitations of the claims 14 and 21 except that does not teach fourth instructions for updating a device tree to reflect a configuration of said data processing system after inclusion of said new input/output drawer. Lortz teaches a system for adding a device entry to a device tree upon detecting the connection of a device, wherein fourth instructions (device tree search instructions 284 of Fig. 2A) for updating said device tree (i.e., adding to a device tree in Fig. 2C; See col. 6, lines 41-44) to reflect a configuration of said data processing system (See col. 6, lines 36-60) after inclusion of said new input/output drawer (See col. 6, lines 41-63).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have included said device tree with said fourth instructions, as disclosed by Lortz, in said data processing system, as disclosed by Ahrens'265, as modified by Berglund and Sihdu, for the advantage of providing a way for associating an input/output drawer (i.e., smart device; Lortz) with particular device driver for said input/output drawer (i.e., software components, device functions, or software categories; Lortz). Refer to col. 2, line 55 through col. 3, line 3 of Lortz.

Referring to claim 7, the method steps of claim 7 are inherently performed by the apparatus of claim 21, and therefore the rejection of claim 21 applies to claim 7.

11. Claims 5, 12 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ahrens'265 [US 6,230,265 B1] in view of Berglund [US 6,044,411] and Sidhu [US 5,884,322] as applied to claims 2, 9 and 16 above, and further in view of Ahrens et al. [US 6,148,419; hereinafter Ahrens'419].

Referring to claims 12 and 19, Ahrens'265, as modified by Berglund and Sidhu, discloses all the limitations of the claims 12 and 19 except that does not teach said unique location identifier comprise device nodes and location codes.

Ahrens'419 discloses a data processing system 100 (Fig. 1), wherein a unique location identifier (i.e., architected location code; See Fig 2 and col. 2, line 51) comprise device nodes (i.e., particular I/O adapter

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NNNN...N of display 103 in Fig. 2) and location codes (i.e., x for rack/cabinet and y for I/O drawer of display 103 in Fig. 2). Refer to col. 2, lines 51-54.

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have applied said architected location code, as disclosed by Ahrens'419, to said unique location identifier, as disclosed by Ahrens'265, as modified by Berglund and Sihdu, for the advantage of providing an indication of said input/output drawer location for said data processing system, which could be used for displaying said unique location identifier (i.e., architected location code; Ahrens'419) on an LCD display 103 (Fig. 1; Ahrens'419) for the convenience of eliminating the need for tracing cables from the processor (101 (Fig. 1; Ahrens'419) through each of said input/output drawers when an error occurs (See col. 1, lines 44-50 of Ahrens'419).

Referring to claim 5, the method steps of claim 5 are inherently performed by the apparatus of claim 19, and therefore the rejection of claim 19 applies to claim 5.

Conclusion

12. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Ku et al. [US 6,438,624 B1] disclose configurable I/O expander addressing for I/O drawers in a multi-drawer rack server system.

Patel et al. [US 6,282,674 B1] disclose apparatus and method for retrieval of circuit state information.

Staats et al. [US 5,809,331] disclose system for retrieving configuration information from node configuration memory identified by key field used as search criterion during retrieval.

Eide et al. [US 6,243,774 B1] disclose apparatus product and method of managing computer resources supporting concurrent maintenance operations.

Berglund et al. [US 5,935,252] disclose apparatus and method for determining and setting system device configuration relating to power and cooling using VPD circuits associated with system devices.

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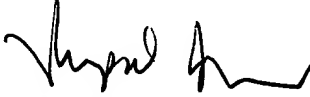
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Christopher E. Lee whose telephone number is 703-305-5950. The examiner can normally be reached on 9:00am - 5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Peter S. Wong can be reached on 703-305-3477. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3718 for regular communications and 703-746-9248 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-305-3900.

Christopher E. Lee
Examiner
Art Unit 2189

cel/ *CEL*
October 25, 2002


RUPAL DHARIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER